

JUN 1 1990

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7 June 1990

Tai Anh Nguyen

Re: Captain Nguyen Van TAN, former South Vietnamese Navy Chief
of Intelligence and Director, Naval Security Service
(ODP Case IV 284702)

Dear Tai:

This letter is merely to let you know that we are thinking
of you all and that we have returned to our home in the
mountains. I have no new definitive information to report
except the important fact that Admiral Zumwalt has written to a
high level State Department official on behalf of TAN which
letters are enclosed.

Our warmest regards to your mother and father, and of
course to you and Cam Ngoc.

Dear Bud -
I am most grateful. Am now
working with church groups, Vietnamese
organization etc in the hope that
I can get him settled.
Be and I send our
best to you and Maysa
and - Thank you!
warmest regards
Rat

cc: ✓ Admiral E.R. Zumwalt Jr. USN (Ret)
RADM Thomas Brooks USN
William Benteen Bailey, Esq.



Vice Admiral Earl Frank Rectanus
United States Navy, (Ret.)

15 March 1991

Richard Schifter
Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Admiral Zumwalt has informed me that you and he spoke recently regarding my friend, former Captain Tan Van NGUYEN who has now been incarcerated in various camps in north and south Vietnam for over fifteen years. He has further asked that I send to you a summary of the case with relevant and related correspondence.

I have a large amount of correspondence with all kinds of agencies and organizations including ODP in Bangkok, Richard Beers at State, Senator Heinz and others. Such efforts have come to naught primarily because the Vietnamese will not address the problem of emmigration for anyone not officially released from incarceration.

My latest effort is a plea to Senator John McCain attached to which is a copy of the ODP questionnaire on NGUYEN which is herewith enclosed. It is the single most complete document of the case. It does not of course convey the hardships endured by this brave officer such as clearing munitions, planting rice and the performance of hard labor. Nor does it convey the retribution wrought on his wife and family.

I would be eternally grateful for any assistance you might be able to provide to me in helping this officer who is responsible for the saving of countless American lives in the Delta.

Sincerely,

(over)

File

18 1991

VADM. Earl F. Rectanus HSN (Ret)

~~cc:~~ ADM. E.R. Zumwalt Jr. USN (Ret)
1500 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209

Encl: EFR ltr to Senator John S. McCain dtd 15 March with ODP
Questionnaire re Van Tan NGUYEN (ODF Case IV 264702)

*Dear Bud -
Thank you very much
Our best to Morza*

*Warm regards
Rex*

Letterhead

15 March 1991

Senator John S. McCain Jr.
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Captain NGUYEN Van Tan, former South Vietnamese Navy Chief
of Intelligence and Director, Naval Security Service (ODP
Case IV 264702)

Dear Senator McCain:

While I do not believe we have ever personally met, our paths have crossed vicariously many times. From 1966-1968, I served as Chief of Current Intelligence on CINCPAC's staff; 1968 to 1969 as ACOS for Intelligence under Admiral Zumwalt in COMNAVFORV; and from 1971-1974 as the Director of Naval Intelligence closely associated with POW matters.

The purpose of this letter is to plead for your help regarding my Vietnamese navy counterpart and personal friend, Captain NGUYEN Van Tan who has been incarcerated in "re-education" camps since June 15, 1975 and remains incarcerated to this day. While realizing that the Department of State is presumably doing all it can and their responses to my efforts have been courteous and professional, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that only a direct approach on behalf of my friend has the possibility of bearing fruit. Therefore I make a heartfelt appeal to you to specifically raise this subject on your forthcoming trip to Vietnam.

Enclosed is a summary of pertinent information regarding Captain NGUYEN Van Tan.

Warm regards,

6100 Estero Blvd.
Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931

ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM QUESTIONNAIRE
for
Tan Van NGUYEN

A. Basic Identification Data:

Name: Tan Van NGUYEN
Other Name: None
Date/Place of Birth: March 23, 1930, Saigon
Residence Address: 107B/545 Tran Hung Dau B, Qtrs 5, Ho Chi Minh City.
Mailing Address: 107B/545 Tran Hung Dau B, Qtrs 5, Ho Chi Minh City.
Current Occupation: Prisoner of War.

B. Relatives to Accompany Me:

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Sex	Relationship
Hoa Tuyet Nguyen	06-01-33	Long Xuyen	F	Spouse
Son Ngoc Nguyen	08-12-55	Saigon	M	Son
Ha Ngoc Thi Nguyen	07-23-56	Saigon	F	Daughter
Lan Kieu Thi Nguyen	05-24-58	Saigon	F	Daughter
Thu Kieu Thi Nguyen	12-09-59	Saigon	F	Daughter
Tam Bang Thi Nguyen	09-08-61	Saigon	F	Daughter
Thi Anh Nguyen	07-12-63	Saigon	M	Son
Loc Tan Nguyen	02-14-67	Saigon	M	Son

C. Relatives Outside Vietnam:

Tai Anh Nguyen (son) 728 Massey Rd.;, Mangere, Auckland, New Zealand.
Hanh My Thi Le, 502 Orange Ave #10, Long Beach, CA 90802, USA

D. Complete Family Listing:

Father: Nguyen Van Ngo (Deceased)
Mother: Vang Thi Pham, 31/12 Tran Anh XU Q, Ho Chi Minh City.
Sibling: Long Hai Nguyen Lam, Huy Auc Dao, Tu Minh Nguyen Doan, Anh Tuan Nguyen.

E. Employment by U.S. Government Agencies or Organizations: None.

F. Service with RVNAF by You:

Name of Person Serving: Tan Van NGUYEN
Serial Number: 50 A 700018
Dates of Service: 1953 to April 30, 1975
Last Rank: Captain, Vietnam Navy, Chief Navy Security Svc.
Military Unit: Military Security Service of Vietnam (VNSS)
Name of Supervisor: CO Admiral general CANG TAN CHUNG.
Reason for Leaving: To be put in Jail.
Name of American Advisor: Admiral E.R. Zumwalt USN, 1500 Wilson Blvd,
Arlington, VA 22209
Rear Admiral E.F. Rectanus USN, The Anchorage,
Weaver Mill Road, Rector, PA 15677

U.S. Training in U.S.:

U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL (11-05-56 to 06-23-57)

U.S. Army Fort Holabird, Baltimore, MD (01-11-65 to 03-30-65)

U.S. Awards: U.S. Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V".

U.S. Bronze Star with Combat "V".

G. Re-education Camp History: Tan Van NGUYEN

From	To	Location
06-15-75	10-20-75	Long Giao (Long Khanh, SVN)
10-20-75	06-12-76	Tam Hiep (Bien Hoa, SVN)
06-12-76	10-20-77	Yen Bai (Hoang Lien Son, NVN)
10-20-77	01-07-80	Tan Lap (Vinh Thu, NVN)
01-07-80	08-26-82	Thanh Phong (Thanh Hoa, NVN)
08-25-82	03-17-83	Ha Tay (Ha Soiu Binh, NVN)
03-17-83	05-31-88	Nam Ha (Ha Nam Ninh, NVN)
05-31-88	The Present	Thu Duc, Z-30-D, (Ham Tan, Thuan Hai, SVN)

Total Time in Re-Education Camp: June 15, 1975 to the present.

H. Additional Remarks:

*Vietnamese Certificate: B.A. in Theology.

*U.S. Certificates: Senior Foreign Officers Intelligence Course

Service School - Instructor Training

Service School - Command Training

I. Attached Documents:

Birth Certificates of children and siblings.

Marital Certificate

Certificate of U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL.

I affirm that the information on this questionnaire is true and understand that any false statement could prevent me from going to the U.S.

October 30, 1989

Signature of Applicant

HOA

Mrs. Tan Van Nguyen

=====

NOTE: The above is a typed copy of the document hand written by Mrs. Tan Van Nguyen and therefore may contain some minor inaccuracies. It also contains some minor changes for explanatory and comprehension purposes made by the copier, VADM. E.F. Rectanus, USN (Ret).

=====



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

31 May 1990

VADM Earl F. Rectanus, USN (Ret.)
The Anchorage
Weaver Mill Road
Rector, PA 15677

Dear Rex:

I apologize for the delay in answering your note. I have sent a copy of your letter to my good friend, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Schifter who is the single person in the Government who really worries about matters such as those of Captain Tan.

I attach a copy of my letter to Ambassador Schifter.

Mouza joins me in sending love to you and Dee.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
703/841-8960

Attachment



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.

ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

31 May 1990

Ambassador Richard Schifter
Assistant Secretary of State for
Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs
US Department of State
Room 7802
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Dick:

I attach a copy of a letter from a beloved friend and wartime comrade, VADM Earl Rectanus. Both of us are quite interested in winning release for Captain Nguyen Van TAN, who was the former South Vietnamese Navy Chief of Intelligence and who, therefore, has apparently been singled out for even longer incarceration than the flag officers.

Could you add this to your list of good works?

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
703/841-8960

Attachment

cc: VADM Earl Rectanus, USN (Ret.)

VADM. EARL FRANK RECTANUS, USN (Ret)
Coquina SC, 6100 Estero Blvd.
Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931
Phone:
SSN:

MAY 11 1990

9 May 1990

Tai Anh Nguyen

Re: Captain Nguyen Van TAN, former South Vietnamese Navy Chief of
Intelligence and Director, Naval Security Service (ODP Case IV 264702)

Dear Tai:

It has been a while since I last wrote...and I have nothing really important to report, but wanted you and your mother to know that we think of TAN and your family very often.

We are learning more and more about procedures of emigration. Yesterday, Dee and I received the President of the local Vietnamese-American Association of Ft. Myers. He was accompanied by his fifteen (15) year old daughter who is a lovely, intelligent and very attractive young lady. Bach Cu Do's (spelling ???) American name is Andrew DO who is extremely knowledgeable about resettlement and assimilation matters in America. After talking with him I am very optimistic that your family will find a warm, receptive welcome in our country.

DO came to the United States almost immediately after the fall of Saigon as he was able to fly his airplane to Thailand before being captured, so he has been in this country since May 1975. He departed with one small baby girl (Valerie, now 17), had another baby girl later (Lynn, now 15) and a retarded baby boy (born prematurely, Vincent is now 6 years of age but has a mental age of 3 MONTHS and will never recover from this birth defect). DO is a representative for the Phillip Morris Company, which not only manufactures cigarettes, but also owns Kraft Foods, Inc. (Cheeze, dairy products etc) and General Foods Inc. (Cereals, grains etc). It is a large conglomerate which treats its employees in an outstanding manner, according to DO. He has just completed building a new house to his own plans and specifications. DO's wife, Rosalyn also works...in a hospital I believe.

As is common with Vietnamese-American children in this country, Valerie and Lynn are "straight 'A'" students and are planning to attend our finest universities. They have travelled extensively in this country...Valerie is going to Europe for several weeks this summer; Lynn will be going to New England and maybe visit us in Pennsylvania. DO says, the reason for the phenomenal success of Vietnamese children is because they work hard. Lynn is first academically in her class and also spends much time helping to care for retarded Vincent; the same for Valerie. (As an indication of the extent that Valerie and Lynn have assimilated...while they are taught and understand the Vietnamese culture and heritage, neither one can speak or read Vietnamese

fluently. They, after fifteen short years, are just the same as American students their age...only smarter and more intelligent.

Even though DO had a college degree, it was not acceptable in America, so he started to work at very menial jobs gradually obtaining better and better jobs. While he presently could not be characterized as a "wealthy" man, he is still young (43 years of age) and lives a "middle class" life. He speaks continually of "freedom" and "opportunity" in this country and is no doubt a "better American" than most of us who were born in this country. He and his family are citizens of the United States.

I asked DO searching questions about "discrimination". He related his experience and that of other Vietnamese-American communities in the country with whom he corresponds (because of his Presidency of the local group). While not over-dramatizing, he stated that the "white" community had been and is very supportive of our new arrivals. The problems that exist are mainly with the black and hispanic communities who resent the fact that Vietnamese are willing to work hard to provide their children with the best opportunities in contrast to the other communities.

In response to several questions about location in the United States, DO talked at length about his view that a Vietnamese can do well anywhere; jobs are no problem to find if one is willing to START lower than the existing scale for native Americans. In my personal knowledge, several Vietnamese-Americans in Washington D.C. have had all of their children go to college...even in a large city. Nevertheless, DO recommends that TAN consider the benefits of a small southern town/small city in Florida where there are few Vietnamese-Americans. (This in some respects may be because DO has been so successful in this type of environment.) However, he logically points out that the culture and characteristics of the Vietnamese ("the Vietnamese are SURVIVORS") gives them an advantage in smaller areas, rather than in places like New York, Chicago, etc. And of course, the Florida climate is more similar to South Vietnam...no snow, less heating costs, etc. DO is very enthusiastic about life in America and while I do not have extensive knowledge of how other Vietnamese have fared, I would imagine that NOT EVERY Vietnamese emigrant has had the same successful experience as DO.

Addressing your father's age...sixty (60): Sixty is not "old age" in America. There are many things TAN can do which may not be "physical" in nature but which nevertheless provide significant financial remuneration. The United States economy is increasingly SERVICE-ORIENTED, which means there are many positions requiring only "brain power" and administrative ability.

In addition to the information DO provided to me, he gave me the business cards of Vietnamese who are in the business of easing the path of our new arrivals. One specializes in Immigration and Passport problems in St. Petersburg, Florida; another in Louisiana who handles resettlement issues. Also the Lutheran Resettlement Program is highly recommended by DO and is personally known to me. I would not recommend that TAN converse with individual businesses or agencies without first consulting me.

Tai, I have rambled on about my lengthy conversation with DO but the conclusions are (in my opinion):

1. Your father and mother should come to the United States with as many

of the children who can and who desire to come.

2. As DO has experienced, we Americans want and need people with characteristics of the importance of the Family and the will to work hard to ensure not only their success but the success of the next generation. (My ancestors started small in 1865 just like DO.)

3. TAN, of course will want to go where the opportunities are best in this country, but the southern part of our country has definite advantages over the north, and he should consider carefully the advantages of a small city or town, rather than a very large city.

4. First generation existence in any new land is not "utopia" but some sacrifice is what LIFE is all about. And, as DO said "TAN and his family cannot prosper under the Communists" and "any change, but especially in the United States provides all the opportunities" available in the world.

IN SUMMARY:

We will not stop in our efforts to free TAN; we are ready to welcome TAN and his family to the United States; and we KNOW that those who choose and can come to us will receive a warm welcome and will find in the United States a fulfilling life.

Please convey to your Mother (and TAN, if you can) our personal affection and hope that TAN will soon be released. Also, my wife Dee and I send our best wishes to your wife Gam Ngoc.

Warm regards,

P.S.: STUDY ENGLISH...EXTREMELY IMPORTANT! Those brothers and sisters who wish to come to America should be studying English NOW...

P.S.: Tai, I am assuming that my letters (or at least the essential content of them) are available to your mother. Recently, I received several letters from TON VAN XUAN (via Pastor Dan Van Tran of the Vietnamese Evangelical Church Burnsville, 4945 Balsam Lane, Plymouth, Minnesota 55442) who said he was a classmate of your mother's at Can Tho University. Please advise your mother that I have processed his letters to American friends and have sent them to the Department of the Army and the Department of State in an effort to find his former friends.

P.S.: Tai, if this method of correspondence to your mother (through you) is burdensome or inconvenient, please advise me so that I can explore alternate channels through the Red Cross or religious organizations. Or, if the transmission of these letters in English, or their translations into Vietnamese for transmission to your mother is a financial problem, please advise me accordingly. Also, please ask your mother to write to me regarding TAN's mental and physical health and that of herself, Lan and her child, and your brothers in Saigon.

MAY 11 1990

P.S.: Dee and I will be returning to Pennsylvania on 5 June 1990. Our address is The Anchorage, Weaver Mill Road, Rector, PA 15677.

cc: The Ambassador
American Embassy, Thailand
Box 56, APO San Francisco, CA 98346
(Attn: Orderly Departure Program)

Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
(Attn: Mr. Richard Beer, Refugee Section)

William Benteen Bailey, Esq.
Naval Intelligence Professionals
PO Box 9324, McLean, VA 22102-9998

✓ ADM. E.R. Zumwalt Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Dad —

Is there any way that you know of which
would facilitate my getting TAN released from
prison DS - Long Khanh. ?

Warmest regards to you & Mona

Rex


FEB 20 1990

VADM. Earl F. Rectanus USN (Ret)

15 February 1990

Tai Anh Nguyen

Re: Captain Nguyen Van TAN, former South Vietnamese Navy Chief of Intelligence and Director, Naval Security Service.

Dear Tai:

Today I received your registered letter with your latest news and the documentation regarding your family.

Specifically, I understand that:

- a. You have no news regarding the emigration of your father.
- b. He is still in prison K-5 at Long Khanh.
- c. He is physically well but has aged significantly. (I agree with you after looking at the 1989 photo you enclosed).
- d. Your mother is well and would like to include your sister, NGUYEN THI KIEU LAN and her 12-year old son, DAO DUC HUY for emigration with your father and mother.
- d. You stated that your sister is 32 years of age and is divorced and questioned whether such status would inhibit her emigrating with your parents. I don't have the answer to that question but I feel reasonably confident that a divorce would have little or no relevance to the problem of emigration.
- e. Thank you for the photocopy of: (1) Birth certificates of parents, brothers and sisters; (2) Certificate of marriage of your parents; and (3) the U.S. Navy Certificate of TAN's completion of Instructor Training at Great Lakes in 1957.
- f. Thank you also for the recent photograph of TAN and your mother, the 1933 photo of Tuyet Hoa, the 1955 photo of Ngoc Son, the 1967 photo of Tan Loc, and the photos of your sisters Thi Kieu Lan (1958) and Thi Kieu Thu. (1959)

Tai, I will ensure that the documents are provided to those officials who are in charge of the Orderly Departure Program in Bangkok and in Washington.

Now let me speak to some late news which I have received from Admiral Zumwalt which might not be considered GOOD news...but I know you would not want me to withhold anything.

Admiral Zumwalt received a letter from our Ambassador O'Donohue in Bangkok who is responsible for the Orderly Departure Program. The Ambassador briefly reviews the Orderly Departure Program and generally provides some information already known to you. However, he provides also the information that during negotiations with Hanoi, the Vietnamese side declined to discuss the future of those still held in reeducation camps, carefully limiting the talks to

"released reeducation camp detainees". The Ambassador further states however, that U.S. officials continue to press the Vietnamese to release all those remaining in re-education camps. The Orderly Departure Program (ODP) office in Bangkok has opened a file for Captain TAN (NUMBER IV-264702) on the basis of the letter Admiral Zumwalt sent last June 1989.

Tai, while I am sure that our officials are doing every thing they can, you may wish to contact our embassy in New Zealand or to write to our embassy in Bangkok to ensure there is nothing further that can be done from your position, especially now that we have the file number for TAN. We of course will continue our efforts from the United States.

Please provide our warmest regards to your mother and father.

Dear Bud -
Thank you very much for your letter and that of the Ambassador. Seems as though ODP was somewhat tardy in answering your letter, but better late than never. I never have received replies to mine, except for Richard Beer in Washington).
Our love to you and Moura

Warmest regards.
Rex

cc The Ambassador
American Embassy, Thailand
Box 56, APO San Francisco, CA 98348
(Attn: Orderly Departure Program)

Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
(Attn: Mr. Richard Beer, Refugee Section)

✓ Admiral E.R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209

William Benteen Bailey, Esq.
Naval Intelligence Professionals
PO Box 9324, McLean, VA 22102-9998

VADM. Earl F. Rectanus USN (Ret)

MAR 2 1990

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25 February 1990

American Embassy Bangkok
Orderly Departure Program (ODP)
Box 58, APO San Francisco 96346-0001 (ATTN: COMM)

Re: Captain Nguyen Van TAN, former South Vietnamese Navy Chief of Intelligence
and Director, Naval Security Service. (CASE IV 264702)

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you very much for your letter of 2 February 1990 which stated that you are unable to locate a file for Nguyen Van TAN and requested complete names, date of birth and current addresses of the sponsor in the U.S. and the principal applicant in Vietnam, as well as the ODP IV file number, if known.

Enclosure (1) is a chronology which may be useful.

In specific answer to your questions: Complete names, date of birth and current addresses of the principal applicant and family have been provided. See Enclosure (1). The Case Number is IV 264702. Regarding information about sponsors, we have no information because we need advice from ODP on just how to proceed, especially from the standpoint of the "Agreement" and the role of the U.S. Government in TAN's emigration and rehabilitation. The fact that the Vietnamese have not released TAN raises the question of whether they will, if so when. Would actions taken now be premature, or are there some measures which can productively be initiated.

We would be grateful and highly appreciative of any guidance you can provide regarding the expediting of his release from detention and any preparations which we might make for his ultimate emigration from Vietnam.

Sincerely,

cc: Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520
(Attn: Mr. Richard Beer, Refugee Section)

✓ Admiral E.R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209

William Benteen Bailey, Esq.
Naval Intelligence Professionals
PO Box 9324, McLean, VA 22102-9998

ENCLOSURE (1) to VADM Earl F. Rectanus USN (Ret) letter of 25 Feb 1990

Chronology of Information and Actions Taken

Relating to the Emigration of

Former South Vietnamese Naval Captain NGUYEN VAN TAN

Date	Commentary
4/20/89	Letter from Mrs. Nguyen Van Tan (NUYET HOA) to Rectanus; received via Navy Department, Washington, D.C. advising of TAN's incarceration since 1975, her address (Nguyen Tuyet Hoa, 107B/545 Tran Hung Dao B, Q5, Ho Chi Minh City) and mailing address of son Nguyen Anh Tai, 728 Massey Road, Mangere Auckland, New Zealand who previously escaped by boat from Vietnam.
5/24/89	Rectanus reply to Mrs. TAN via son TAI with copy to ADM. E.R. ZUMWALT USN (Ret) promising assistance and requesting more information. (This was first contact with TAN family since fall of South Vietnam.)
6/5/89	Letter from ADM. Zumwalt to Ambassador Daniel A. O'Donohue providing copies of Mrs. TAN's letter (4/20/89) and Rectanus letter of 5/24/89 requesting advice from the Ambassador on how we should proceed to arrange for TAN's immigration to the U.S.
7/17/89	Letter from Rectanus to Ambassador, Bangkok (Attn: Orderly Departure Program) at the suggestion of Senator John Heinz inviting the Ambassador's attention to the case of Nguyen Van TAN, providing background information, ERRONEOUSLY reporting that TAN had in fact been released, and requesting advice and support in furthering the objective of immigrating to the U.S. Copies of this letter were provided to Senator John Heinz and the Department of State (SEA Refugee Program, Washington, DC [Attn: Ricky Gold]).
7/31/89	Associated Press reports "U.S. signs agreement to resettle Vietnamese" in the U.S. pursuant to agreement by U.S. senior deputy assistant Secretary of State Robert L. Funseth.
8/1/89	Letter from Rectanus to Mrs. TAN bringing her and son TAI up to date on latest developments.
8/1/89	Letter from Rectanus to Ambassador, Bangkok (Attn: Orderly Departure Program) referring to my 7/17/89 ltr and requesting advice and what steps we might take to expedite TAN's inclusion in the first group to depart under the Funseth "agreement". Copies were sent to Senator Heinz and Department of State (Attn: Ricky Gold).
8/2/89	Letter from Senator Heinz to Rectanus stating support for my objective and stating that he had written to Ambassador O'Donohue asking the Ambassador "to provide all information necessary to proceed to process his (TAN's) case.

8/2/89 Rectanus received lengthy letter from Mrs. TAN dated 7/8/89 in which details TAN's passing through many concentration camps in the north and presently in Z-30-D, "the Thu Duc Concentration camp". She further speaks to her eight children and their mal-treatment. About TAN she said only "TAN wanted to write to you, but in this present circumstance he could'nt...Please forgive him."

8/24/89 Letter from Rectanus to Ambassador, Bangkok (Attn: Orderly Departure Program) inviting attention to his letters of 7/17 and 8/1 and inclosing the latest letter from Mrs. TAN (dated 7/8/89) referred to above...and expressing appreciation for any advice which could be provided regarding ways we could assist Captain and Mrs. TAN. Copies of this letter with enclosure (Mrs. TAN's letter) were provided to Senator Heinz and to Department of State, Attn: Ricky Gold, without the enclosure.

9/6/89 Letters received from the U.S. Director of Naval Intelligence and Washington, D.C. Attorney William Benteen Bailey continuing our On-going written discussions on how best to proceed.

9/14/89 Letter from Rectanus to TAI Nguyen Anh asking ten specific questions about TAN's condition, whereabouts, family condition, ability to read/write/speak English, etc. Copies of this letter were sent to the Ambassador, Bangkok (Attn: Orderly Departure Program), Senator Heinz and the Department of State (Attn: Ricky Gold).

9/25/89 Letter from TAI to Rectanus answering directly the ten questions previously tendered. He stated inter alia that TAN has been in the concentration camp since 1975 and has never been released at any time; that TAN never participated in the new government of Vietnam; that his mother has the birth certificates and other documents which may be needed. TAI sent a copy of this letter to the Ambassador, Bangkok (Orderly Departure Program), Senator Heinz, and the Department of State (Attn: Ricky Gold).

11/8/89 As a result of (1), the continued inability to learn anything about TAN officially and (2), my on-going association with Washington attorney Mr. Bailey, Rectanus wrote a letter to the Department of State (ATTN: MR. RICHARD BEER, REFUGEE SECTION). This letter was at the suggestion of Mr. Bailey and included TAI's letter of 9/25/89. The letter simply asked if TAN's name was on the list of South Vietnamese officers eligible to leave Vietnam under the "Agreement". Copies of this letter were sent to the Ambassador, Bangkok (Attn: Orderly Departure Program), Senator Heinz, attorney Bailey and TAI.

11/20/89 Letter from Department of State (RICHARD BEER) to Rectanus in which he directly states that TAN's name was among those contained in the "second list of high priority reeducation detainee cases our representatives submitted to the Vietnamese authorities on September 19 in Ho Chi Minh City." Mr. Beer also provided other information not previously known and stated "The ODP Office at our Embassy in Bangkok will proceed with Nguyen Van Tan's case when he receives exit permission from Vietnamese authorities."

- 11/28/89 Letter from Rectanus to TAI relating the above information from Mr. Beer. Copies to Ambassador, Bangkok (Attn: Orderly Departure Program), Senator Heinz, Attorney Bailey, Dept. of State (Richard Beer), ADM. Zumwalt, and Director of Naval Intelligence Thomas Brooks.
- 2/7/90 Letter from ADM. Zumwalt enclosing Ambassador O'Donohue's letter dtd 1/24/90 replying to ADM. Zumwalt's letter of the previous June. The Ambassador reviewed TAN's status saying that the Embassy's information was that TAN was still in detention, that the first group to be released travelled to the U.S. on January 5, 1990; that the Vietnamese have declined "to discuss the future of those still held in reeducation camps, carefully limiting the talks to 'released reeducation camp detainees'". He further stated that the "Orderly Departure Program (ODP) has opened a file for Commander Tan (number IV-264702) on the basis of the letter you forwarded."
- 2/8/90 Letter from TAI to Rectanus with photographs of five of his sisters and brothers, a 1989 photo of TAN and his wife, birth certificates of TAN and Mrs. TAN, brothers and sisters, certificate of marriage of parents, USN Certificate of Training completion by TAN in 1957. TAI further stated that TAN is still in prison K-5 at Long Khanh (?).
- 2/15/90 Letter from Rectanus to TAI acknowledging the receipt of the above documents with copies of the letter and ALL DOCUMENTS to: The Ambassador, Bangkok (Attn: Orderly Departure Program), Department of State (Attn: Richard Beer), Attorney Bailey; and to ADM Zumwalt (without copies of documents).



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

7 February 1990

VADM Earl F. Rectanus
The Anchorage
Weaver Mill Road
Rector, PA 15677

Dear Rex:

I attach a letter from Ambassador O'Donohue which contains a quite different report on Tan's status.

I would appreciate your thoughts.

Mouza joins me in sending all best wishes to you and Dee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.".

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
703/841-8960

Attachment

FEB 6 1990



Embassy of the United States of America

Bangkok, January 24, 1990

Dear Admiral Zumwalt:

I am replying to your letter of last June concerning Viet Nam Navy Commander Nguyen Van Tan. I regret the time it has taken for this response to reach you, but it took a good deal of time to look into whether Commander Tan is still in detention, as his wife's letter says, or has been released, as Admiral Rectanus suggests. After reviewing all available information carefully, we believe Commander Tan is still in detention. If there is any further information available to his wife, please let us know.

As you know, the fate of the many people who have suffered as a result of their close association with the United States in Vietnam is of intense interest to the U.S. Government. Last July, Mr. Robert L. Funseth, Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Refugee Programs, visited Hanoi and negotiated an agreement with Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Vu Khoan to resettle released reeducation camp detainees in the United States. Interviews of these released detainees by officers of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service began in October, 1989 in Ho Chi Minh City and the first group travelled to the U.S. on January 5, 1990.

During the negotiations in Hanoi, the Vietnamese (SRV) side declined to discuss the future of those still held in reeducation camps, carefully limiting the talks to "released reeducation camp detainees". However, U.S. officials continue to press the SRV to release all those remaining in re-education camps.

We understand that in November five persons were released from reeducation camp and we hope and expect that they and others will be permitted to participate in the program to resettle released reeducation camp detainees in the United States. The Orderly Departure Program (ODP) office has opened a file for Commander Tan (number IV-264702) on the basis of the letter you forwarded.

Thank you for writing us about Commander Tan and for your concern for those we are trying to help.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. O'Donohue **DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S.A.**
Ambassador

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

E.R. Zumwalt, Jr.
1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

AMERICAN EMBASSY
ORDERLY DEPARTURE PROGRAM (ODP)
BOX 58
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346-0001



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

5 June 1989

VADM E. F. Rectanus, USN (Ret.)
The Anchorage
Weaver Mill Road
Rector, PA 15677

Dear Rex:

Many thanks for sending me news that Commander Tan has finally been released. As you probably know, we were also successful in getting Admiral Chon released about a year ago.

The process for getting people out of Vietnam is very slow and mysterious and I am not sure I understand all the nuances. However, I attach a copy of a letter I have written to the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand and I will send you a copy of his reply when I receive it.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
703/841-8960

Attachment



E. R. ZUMWALT, JR.
ADMIRAL, U. S. NAVY (RET.)

5 June 1989

The Honorable
Ambassador Daniel A. O'Donohue
American Embassy
APO San Francisco 96346

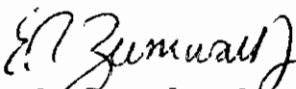
Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I attach copies of correspondence received concerning a recent release from "re-education camp" of Commander Nguyen van Tan who was the Vietnamese Navy Intelligence Officer whose loyalty to the United States was so constant that he has paid this long term incarceration as a price.

Can you advise me as to how we should proceed to arrange for his immigration to the U.S.?

All best wishes.

Sincerely,


E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

1500 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209
703/841-8960

Attachments



MAY 30 1989 \

Vice Admiral Earl Frank Rectanus
United States Navy, (Ret.)

24 May 1989

Dear Bud -

The attached is self explanatory.

Don't really know what "assistance" is desired and I have little information regarding the subject. I am assuming that Mrs. Tan's letter is genuine.

If you have any advice, it would be appreciated. Our best to Manza and family.

Warm regards
ER

VADM. E. F. RECTANUS USN (Ret)
The Anchorage
Weaver Mill Road
Rector, PA. 15677

PS: This winter has been great here in Florida. We return north about 4 June.

VADM. Earl F. Rectanus, USN (Ret)
The Anchorage
Weaver Mill Road
Rector, PA 15677

24 May 1989

Mrs. Nguyen van Tan:
Nguyen Tuyet Hoa
107B/545 Tran Hung Dau B-Q5
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

c/o Tai Anh Nguyen

Dear Mrs. Tan:

Your letter dated 20 April 1989 reached me yesterday with the news about Captain Tan.

Of course, I remember Tan as do many of those in the U.S. Navy who served with him. And we are very happy to hear that he has finally been released from the concentration camp and hope that he is physically well.

In your letter, you asked if we would be able to assist you. We would be most happy to provide assistance to the extent that we are able to do so. To this end, please provide information as to the type of assistance which would be helpful. From your letter, it is assumed that Tai Anh Nguyen is a family member presently residing in New Zealand. It would also be useful to know if you presently have any family members or friends residing in the United States.

As you asked, I am conveying your best regards to Admiral Zumwalt by sending him a copy of this letter and your letter to me.

To you, your family and to Captain Tan, we send our very warm regards and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

cc: ADM. E.R. Zumwalt Jr.
1500 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209